**2nd virtual Flagship Meeting Feeds & Forages – March 17 2017**

***Meeting minutes***

**Participants:**

Michael Peters

Valheria Castiblanco

Nicoline de Haan

Barbara Rischkowsky

Udo Rüdiger

Uwe Ohmstedt

Michael Blümmel

Stefan Burkart

**Excused:**

Alan Duncan

Chris Jones

Tom Randolph

**Agenda:**

* Update POWB process
* Update gap funding
* Update BMZ proposals
* Update funding initiatives (e.g. SoFT)
* Update Flagship revision
* Advances Tropical Forages Germplasm strategy
* Information MOU ILRI-CIAT Forages Tropical Africa and Asia
* Others

Introduction of participants, i.e. Valheria Castiblanco and Jane Wamatu. Both will be directly invited from here on to all future Flagship Meetings.

**Update POWB process:**

The process was explained to the participants (initial preparation – feedback – changes). Changes on the POWB revision were made by Michael Peters and Stefan Burkart – basically on Forages CIAT work. In general, there were not many changes. Final version will be sent to all Flagship members once it is ready.

**Gap Funding:**

Whole budget (525,000 EUR) accepted by BMZ. ACIAR will support 100,000 AUD, which will be taken out of the 525,000 EUR (375,000 CIAT; 100,000 ILRI; 50,000 ICARDA). Now Michael and Stefan will need to prepare the application and budget templates following BMZ’s genebank funding guidelines. If help is needed, others will be involved. Approval is being expected within 1 month. USAID also interested but main funding of them goes to Grain Legumes. They see complementarity of BMZ/ACIAR to contribute to Forage/Feed work and USAID contribute to Legume work. Chances to talk to USAID in the different regions and to get support for Feeds & Forages work. USAID: Rob Bertram, BMZ: Michel Bernhardt, ACIAR: Werner Stür. Donors discussed among themselves to define their priorities. This was perceived positive by them as no lobbying was involved. Also positively perceived: the approach to come up with an integrated gap funding among CIAT, ILRI and ICARDA.

**Update BMZ proposals:**

ICARDA: not been shared yet. Will be shared by Tuesday March 21. ICARDA focuses on piloting and scaling.

ILRI: shared with Feeds & Forages community. Michael Blümmel will share a new version by today, Friday March 17. ILRI focuses on piloting and scaling.  
CIAT: Will be shared with the Feeds & Forages community by Monday March 20. Synergies were identified with the ILRI proposal (e.g., on value chain toolkit to be applied). CIAT focuses on proof of concept and piloting.

In general: Synergies should be mentioned, connection should be highlighted. Small section on how the 3 proposals fit together would be beneficial. Michael, Stefan and Tom can harmonize in the end, i.e. the sections linking to the CRP, complementarities among the proposals.

Nicoline de Haan offered to have a look at the gender parts. Wouter Kleijn offered to have a look at the youth parts. Drafts would be shared with Nicoline and Wouter.

**Update on other funding initiatives:**

ILRI: About to sign the MoU with the Government of Odisha in India about a Feed and Fodder Project (1.2M USD) for ILRI – this will be mainly linked to Cluster 3 and 4. ILRI is discussing with Gates Foundation about 8M USD for Ethiopia and Burkina Faso (Gates contribution to the Innovation Lab) – slow process. Discussion with USAID on Food Feed Crop work – but no clarity of how this will be affected by the development aid cuts in the U.S. (cuts by 32%).

ICARDA: no new initiatives on feeds. Discussions about AfricaRising Phase II but nothing concrete.

CIAT: Discussions with private sector about new contract for second half of 2017 on forage breeding (Brachiaria and Panicum). No more information available due to confidentiality. CIAT is in discussions with ACIAR and BMZ on SoFT: ACIAR would support (90% sure) SoFT update (content, software, mobile version) with 250,000 AUD; BMZ will contribute with 20-30,000 EUR. The proposal will be developed within the next 6 weeks and funding would likely be available from July or August 2017 onwards. CIAT’s and ILRI’s Innovation Lab proposal on scaling forage technologies in Asia was not approved. IFAD project for CIAT in East Africa was approved a while ago but the contract is still not signed.

**Update Flagship revision:**

This will come pretty soon. Until end of May/mid-June we will need to have our new version. But there are still no instructions available. We need to move quickly once we get the instructions. We need to revise all comments on the old versions. The new version will be shared with external reviewers (3-4); Ideas so far: Bruce Pengelly, Muhammad Ibrahim (DG Catie), Andreas Springer-Heinze, Harindar Makkar (was involved in FEAST/TechFit discussions), Werner Stür (ACIAR). Tom may add based on discussions between Tom and Michael. Nicoline and Wouter should also revise in terms of gender and youth (1-2 specific paragraphs for gender/youth but also look at integral parts in other sections). Alan Duncan offered English Language editing and with Innovation approach for an advanced version (to be reconfirmed).

**Advances Tropical Forages Germplasm strategy:**

The strategy focuses mostly on Tropical Forages. Drylands species not part of the strategy discussion – CropTrust wants focus on Tropics at the moment. ICARDA should be linked in the future. Advisory committee: Chris Jones, Michael Peters, Jose Francisco Villanueva. Inputs: Jean Hanson, Peter Wenzl. A priority list has been developed for forages, with other germplasm suggested for more long term storage. ILRI and CIAT are working on a joint management of the 2 forage collections (Cali and Addis) – coordination will be by Peter Wenzl (CIAT), and staff based in Ethiopia; details on reporting lines and supervision still discussed between ILRI and CIAT. ICARDA might be included in future stages. ICARDA’s genebank focus is not primarily on forages.

**Information MoU ILRI-CIAT Forages Tropical Africa and Asia**

There will probably be a joint action plan between CIAT and ILRI for forages work in Africa and Asia. ICARDA would be involved at a later stage, i.e. with Ethiopia. Barbara requests that ICARDA should be informed to be aware of what is going on and to see where synergies can be found. The information should also be shared among the Feeds and Forages Flagship members.

**Other points:**

Connection establishment with the Green Innovation Centers in Kenya: Uwe Ohmstedt already in touch with them – they are open for cooperation but they don’t see it as a partnership as this comes with obligations. Cooperation rather informal but no fixed commitments.

Cluster 4 leadership: Discussion on leadership on-going. Transition period to get Uwe Ohmstedt on track. Udo Rüdiger and Stefan Burkart will support Uwe Ohmstedt after he took over. Udo Rüdiger also country coordinator for ICARDA in Tunisia – ICARDA prefers Uwe Ohmstedt to lead Cluster 4.

Uwe Ohmstedt is one of the 7 CRP CIM persons working on innovation & scaling directly under a CRP Flagship. There is a task force (network, community of practice) of CIM on scaling, involving the 7 CRP CIMs, Uwe Ohmstedt is part of that. They will integrate other CIM experts working on scaling in the centers – likely Udo Rüdiger – into a wider task force in the near future.